

of Philadelphia. He sent and carried many living plants to England for cultivation and was appointed "Queen's Botanist." Mr. Rhoads's task in searching out so thoroughly the history of W. Young has not been an easy one but he has brought together a good account of this man and his work, and while the catalogue is not of great scientific value it has much historical interest.—MARY A. DAY.

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A POPULAR HANDBOOK TO THE MOSSES.—Mrs. Elizabeth M. Dunham in "How to Know the Mosses,"<sup>1</sup> has undertaken to provide a handbook which will not require the use of a lens of any kind. When one considers that a convenient hand-lens costs only \$1.50, and that there is already available such a satisfactory book as Dr. Grout's "Mosses with a Hand-lens," it seems to the reviewer doubtful if the task that Mrs. Dunham has attempted is worth while. Her book should be judged, however, by its purpose, which is to enable "people who are content to recognize violets, asters, and goldenrods, without knowing the specific names . . . to know the generic names of mosses." The descriptions show that Mrs. Dunham has a good knowledge of the plants with which she is dealing. The illustrations are very simple, but in general they suggest the habit of the moss to one who is already familiar with it; whether they would be sufficiently suggestive to a beginner is open to question. Photographs would have been much better but would, of course, have added greatly to the cost of the book. A casual testing of the keys seems to indicate that they work out as well as could be expected. No handbook will eliminate the need of judgment and patience, and equipped with these the possessor of "How to Know the Mosses" will have an opportunity to be introduced to a fascinating group of plants, and, we may hope, will be led on to purchase lens and microscope and the more "scientific" books by Dr. Grout.

Upon opening this book and seeing its thirty pages of non-technical keys, the reviewer was reminded of his first, unaided attempt to learn the mosses nearly twenty years ago. Lesquereux and James's Manual was then the only available book, and the would-be student found no keys except the technical analysis of genera at the beginning of the book. After grappling with the heading "capsule sessile on a pedicellate vaginule," he was then confronted by "calyptra mitriform." The moss in hand had no calyptra; no one stood by to say that it was of no consequence; and the attempt to know mosses proceeded no further at that time! Whatever difficulties are encountered in the use of Mrs. Dunham's book, they will certainly not be due to technicalities.—L. W. R.

<sup>1</sup> Houghton, Mifflin Company, Boston, Mass. 1916. \$1.25 net.